

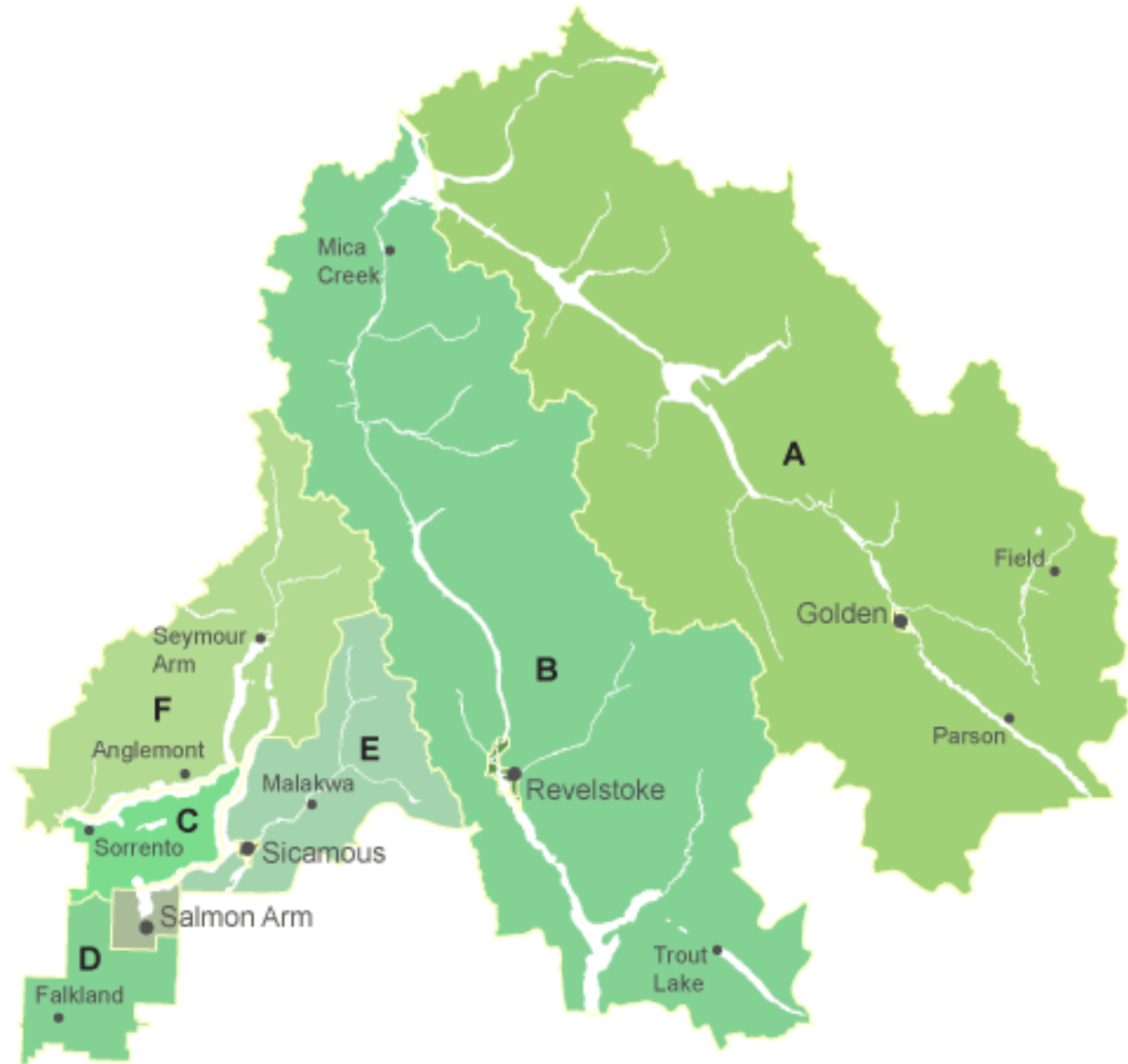


Management Challenges in Rural Parks

By: Jared Taylor and Kristina Flackman

Columbia Shuswap Regional District

- The Regional District covers an area of 2,979,744 hectares
- In this area we manage 53 parks
- There are 722kms of mapped trails
- Driving distances from CSRD office in Salmon Arm can range from 15 min – 4 hours



Low Maintenance is Key

- When CSRD are planning and designing a new park, we must consider the constraints/abilities in that area:
 - Contractor Constraints
 - Water Constraints
 - Light Constraints
- Good planning goes a long way, in the long run!

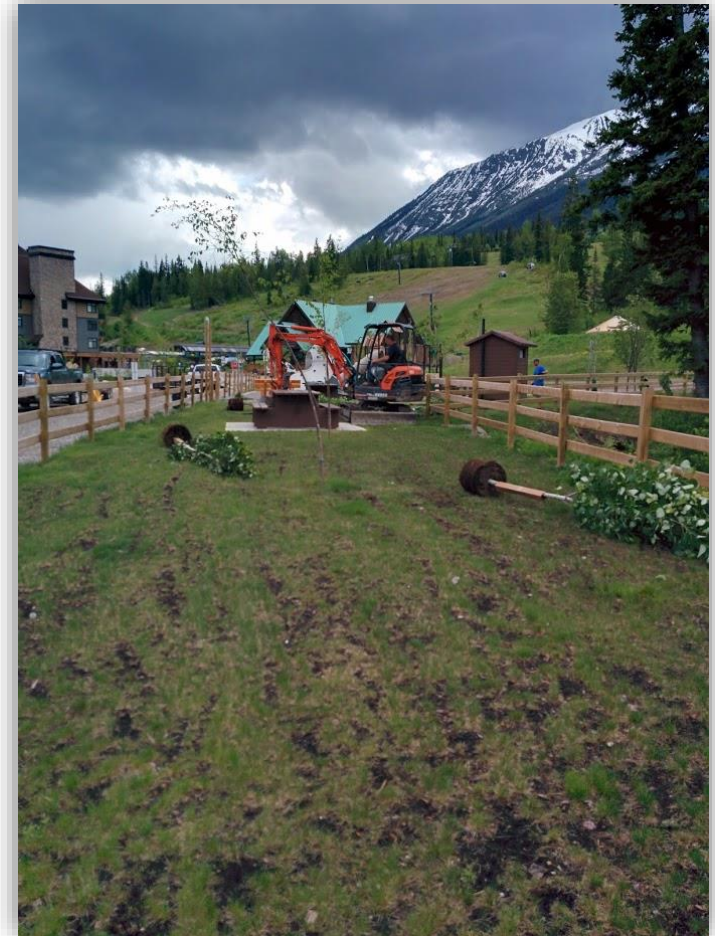


Managing Contractors

The CSRD doesn't always have consistency with our contractors, and they often have differing levels of knowledge when it comes to proper planting/maintenance practices



- Excavator Operators to Landscaping Contractors
- Our job has been to supervise and educate
- Large travel distances can make supervision a challenge
- Direct correlation to tree survival



The Irrigation Challenge

In most cases we don't have irrigated parks, so we use different methods for watering newly planted trees:

- Gator Bags
- Partnering with local volunteer fire departments
- Partnering with the neighbors
- Strategic timing of planting



Construction Protection

- In many new builds we are dealing with mature trees that we try to work around, and construction protection is paramount
- Due to the proximity to the forest edge, in some cases there is damage to the root zone
- Our partnerships are not always beneficial



Pest Management



Ensuring we are able to manage our trees during a pest outbreak in the surrounding native trees has posed a problem

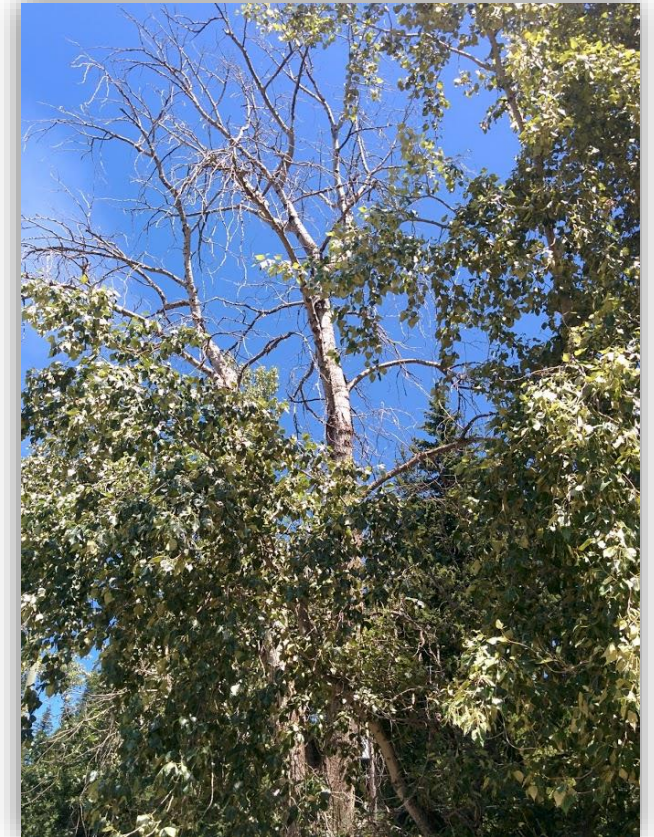


We end up with the same issues as a municipality in some of our more populated areas

Managing Wild Spaces Within Parks



- Budget vs. Reality
- Risk vs. Reward



Bureaucratic Log Jams

- Many parks are within the jurisdiction of multiple authorities, making it difficult to complete even the smallest tasks.
 - Partnership Agreements
 - Ministry of Transportation
 - Ministry of Forests Lands, Natural Resources
 - Department of Fisheries and Oceans



Conclusion

Overall we get to operate some of the most beautiful parks in BC

- Challenges:
 - Large distances and finding consistent contractors
 - Managing the wild spaces can be difficult
 - Many different types of ownership can complicate general maintenance
- Solutions:
 - Education and supervision is key
 - Low maintenance a main focal point in construction and design
 - Assure all permits and approvals are acquired prior to the start of work

